

1 Timothy 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:

Analysis

These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly (Ταῦτά σοι γράφω, ἐλπίζων ἐλθεῖν πρὸς σὲ τάχιον, Tauta soi graphō, elpizōn elthein pros se tachion)—Paul explains his purpose in writing: to provide instructions during his absence, though he hopes for a soon visit. Tachion means 'more quickly, shortly.'

This verse introduces the theological explanation that follows in verse 15—the church is 'the pillar and ground of the truth.' Paul's detailed instructions on worship, leadership, and conduct aren't arbitrary preferences but essential to the church's mission as truth's guardian.

The personal touch ('hoping to come... shortly') reminds us these are not cold institutional policies but pastoral wisdom from a spiritual father to his son in the faith. Timothy needs written instructions he can reference when Paul is absent—the letter provides apostolic authority for Timothy's ministry in Ephesus.

Historical Context

Paul was likely traveling in Macedonia when he wrote (AD 62-64), having left Timothy in Ephesus to combat false teachers (1:3). The letter provides written apostolic instruction Timothy could appeal to when challenged. In an oral culture where authority was person-to-person, this letter gave Timothy Paul's presence in written form—establishing his legitimacy to implement these reforms.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do Paul's written instructions to Timothy provide authoritative guidance for the church today?
2. Why does Paul combine personal relationship ('hoping to see you') with institutional instructions?
3. What does this verse teach about the relationship between apostolic authority and local pastoral ministry?

Interlinear Text

Ταῦτά	σοι	γράφω	έλπίζων	έλθεῖν	πρὸς	σὲ
These things	unto thee	write I	hoping	to come	unto	thee
G5023	G4671	G1125	G1679	G2064	G4314	G4571

τάχιον.

shortly

G5032

Additional Cross-References

Philemon 1:22 (Parallel theme): But withal prepare me also a lodging: for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you.